

COUNCIL MESSAGE

By Pat Griffiths December 2008

As 2008 comes to a close, we as Murray City Council members are grateful for the progress that has been made in our City this year and for the spirit of collaboration that has prevailed in helping us meet the challenges that face us.

There have been many causes for celebration: dedication of a new fire station; the successful renovation of our *Murray City Library*; a birthday celebration of *Intermountain Medical Center's* first year in operation; construction of the beginning phase of *Fireclay*, Murray's transit-oriented development; the national spotlight shining on two of our vocal artists, David Archuleta, first runner-up in the *American Idol* competition, and Charlie Jenkins, one of the 12 finalists in the *Nashville Star* competition; and selection of Murray resident, Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh, as *Utah Teacher of the Year*, with Hillcrest Jr. High teacher, Crystal Fish, chosen as first runner-up, to mention a few.

We have enjoyed our interaction with you in Neighborhood Council Meetings, and have met in Council planning sessions the past few months to discuss goals and objectives we'd like to achieve in the next couple of years. We are striving for **increased efficiency and effectiveness** in our government, including **Council research and greater awareness of municipal issues** to better address the needs of our community. Ongoing priorities are to **provide quality municipal services** through maintaining infrastructure that ensures the livability and viability of Murray City and to **create a sense of security** for Murray residents by reducing crime, improving emergency response time, and assisting in the clean-up of potentially hazardous and unsafe property. **Revitalization and redevelopment of Historic Downtown Murray** and projects which would **enhance quality of life** are other goals we hope to accomplish.

Like other municipalities, our City has been impacted by the recent state, national, and global economic crises. In our role as the City's Budget & Finance Committee, we remain ever vigilant to ensure Murray's fiscal stability. In cooperation with Mayor Snarr and all department heads, we held a special meeting on October 28 to consider their recommendations for cost savings to stay on budget for the current fiscal year. Hiring has been frozen; out-of-state travel has been limited to that necessary to stay current on training and certification, all departments are focusing on reduction of fuel consumption, and some projects we had hoped to complete will need to be postponed. We appreciate the cooperation of our dedicated employees, whom we value highly, and feel optimistic about the future of our City with all of us working together for the common good. We also appreciate the outstanding volunteers who tirelessly serve our community through our Boards and Commissions, and you, our citizens. We invite your active involvement and encourage you to help us by keeping us informed of your neighborhood issues and through conservation of our resources and maintenance of your individual properties.

In our continuing pledge to "Make Life Better," we look forward to 2009 with hope and extend our warmest wishes for a joyous Holiday Season.

